Pharmaceutical industry, and the possibility of establishing an up-to-date Engineering Works is under consideration. Buttons form an essential part of a soldier's equipment, and arrangements are in train for starting a button factory in the State. A Strawboard Factory also will shortly start production. Coir continues to be one of the most important commodities supplied for war purposes. There has been some revival in the coir trade, but the arrangements made in the States for the supply of large quantities of coir for war purposes at reasonable prices have not been altogether satisfactory and the two Governments of Travancore and Cochin are jointly considering the question of themselves taking up the responsibility of supplying coir for war purposes, distributing the orders equitably among the trade interests concerned in the two States. Other important supplies made for war purposes from the State are tentage, glycerine, soap, textiles and tiles. The ancient trade of ship-building has been revived in Cochin and while it is not possible for Security reasons to give details, a variety of small craft are being constructed.

The Hon'ble Minister will deal with various steps taken under his guidance to develop small scale industries, but special mention may be made here of the organisation under the control of the Director of Industries and Commerce for accepting contracts from the Supply Department of the Government of India and getting them executed by small scale industries. In all it is estimated that under all heads supplies worth about Rs. 2 crores have been sent from the State for war purposes.

OTHER WAR EFFORTS

Cochin's total contribution to War Funds amounts to Rs. 10·46 lakhs of which Rs. 5 lakhs has been contributed by the public. Of this total, Rs. 7 lakhs was earmarked for H.M.I.S. Cochin, and in addition large sums have been contributed to such worthy causes as the Red Cross, Special funds for Sailors and amenities for troops, particularly in the Cochin Area. Provision is made in the budget for a special contribution of Rs. 1 lakh to the State War Purposes Fund.

I need not here detail the varied activities of the War Publicity Department and the National War Front which have concentrated, during the year, on maintaining public morale and encouraging both the war effort and nation-saving activities such as the Grow-More-Food-Campaign.

COCHIN RESTAURANTS

An interesting new activity being undertaken by the War Publicity Department with the help of the Supply Department is the establishment of Cochin Restaurants. As is well known it has proved a difficult task to accustom the people to eat, what, for the sake of convenience we call, dry grains, though it is essential that they should do so if their health and strength is to be maintained. Accordingly on the advice of the Rationing Adviser to the Government of India—who was up to recently the Chief Rationing Authority in London—who recently visited the State, we propose to open restaurants modelled, with necessary local modifications, on the British restaurants which have been so successful in Britain under the rationing Scheme there. At these restaurants the use of rice will be forbidden and attractive dishes prepared from other grains will be served, outside the ration. Cooking demonstrations will also be given. It is hoped by this means to popularise the use of dry grains in various centres in the State.

CONCLUSION

Standing as we do at the threshold of another year and taking stock of the position, we can, I think, claim that we have made a worthy attempt to surmount internal difficulties, by far the greatest of which was grave food scarcity, and have, at the same time, far from suffering from a deterioration in morale which might well be expected to follow food shortage, played, considering our limited resources in men and material, a notable part in India's united effort to win the war and create a better world in the future. Having survived together, without flinching, this difficult year, we can face the future with confidence, because we know that our people can take it, and we feel that the rest of India, realising what we have done and are doing, will see to it that we shall not, in the year which lies ahead, suffer so disproportionately as in the past from the difficult food situation created by Japanese aggression in Burma. Our financial position is sound, enabling us, as in the last year, to increase our reserves to meet possible future contingencies and at the same time to make ample provision not only for the safety of the State, but also for extensive activities designed to increase food production, to provide employment, and to ameliorate the condition of the masses.

The people of the State have patiently borne great trials during the past year, and in concluding my second and last budget speech, I should like to pay a respectful tribute to their patience, to their fortitude and above all to their loyalty to His Highness the Maharaja, who has

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set us all so magnificent an example of unselfish devotion to the welfare of His subjects, and to the great cause for which we are fighting. The people of this State have been put through a severe test and have passed it with flying colours. They have, during the past year, shared in the community of suffering and of hardship through which victory will be won, and will, I believe, be fitted to play a great part in the better world which we look for after that final victory.

CONGRATULATORY MOTION

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellaiyi)* : The resolution reads thus.

"This Council congratulates His Highness our beloved Maharaja on the well-merited honour he has received by the conferment on His Highness of the high title of "G. C. I. E." by His Majesty the King Emperor of India and requests the President to convey this resolution to His Highness the Maharaja."

Sir, we are particularly happy that the Resident of the State is personally present here while moving this congratulatory resolution.

The resolution which you, Sir, have so kindly allowed me to move is an expression of the great, joy which we, the members of this House, and His Highness' loyal and loving subjects outside this House whom we have the honour to represent, feel on the conferment by His Majesty the King Emperor of the title of "G. C. I. E." on His Highness our beloved Maharaja.

In His Highness, we have a Maharaja who loves his subjects with a love, abiding and deep, and with whom their welfare transcends all other considerations. His Highness' rule, if I may say so, is a shining illustration of Hindu kingship at its best. His Highness' life has always been characterised by a strict adherence to the ideals of right-living and right-thinking and robust and vigorous application of them in the everyday life of the individuals and the State. His Highness has an intense and intuitive antipathy to all things bad and His Highness has from the very first viewed with loathing the man-destroying, soul-eating civilisation of the Axis partners. His Highness is a firm believer in the ideals for which the democratic powers are fighting and has never failed on every suitable occasion to impress upon His Highness' subjects the importance and paramount necessity of maintaining and preserving those fundamental conceptions of human life and liberty which alone make life worth living and civilisation assumes its true meaning.

His Highness' contributions, both personal and on behalf of the State to the allied war efforts have been full, generous and in a measure befitting the high traditions of this State in regard to its relations with the Paramount Power. His Highness has guided the destinies of this State at this perhaps the most critical period in her history wisely and well and in a manner which makes out in no uncertain manner His Highness as a benevolent and just ruler and a far-sighted statesman.

The distinction now conferred on His Highness is thus a fitting recognition of His Highness' talents and abilities in various directions and of His Highness' ceaseless endeavours to promote the prosperity of the subjects of this State.

We, Sir, regard this distinction as the precursor of greater things to come in the fulness of time and may His Highness be blessed with a long life of health, peace, power and prosperity.

We request you, Sir, to convey to His Highness the respectful congratulations of the members of this House and of His Highness' beloved subjects on what is, if I may be permitted to say so, a well-merited honour and distinction.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Sir, On another occasion I had the honour to say that we have in His Highness a man of great intellect and of great vigour of mind and a Ruler of vast and long experience in men and affairs from whom we expected many things, in the words of the Holy Bible "To whom that hath much has been given, much shall be expected of him." I ought to say that the people of Cochin are expecting from His Highness to implement the promises held out by His Highness's intellect and brilliance shown in the beginning of His Highness' career as Maharaja of Cochin. I may say that the first thought that arises in the minds of the people of Cochin is the grant of further responsible Government in the State. I hope that the early promise of His Highness's career as Maharaja of Cochin will be fulfilled and which will earn for His Highness the name of a great and beneficent ruler. I may also say that this demand was a unanimous one so far as the Council is concerned and that there was neither party nor faction in the State. I join in the chorus of congratulations on this occasion and wish His Highness long life and happiness.

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